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Edwards, Alba M. *The Labor Legislation of Connecticut.* Pp. viii, 322. Price, \$1.00. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1907.

The publication of this monograph by the American Economic Association marks the passing of another milestone in the efforts the Carnegie Institution is furthering to collect material for an economic history of the United States.

The purpose of the author—"to discuss the labor legislation of Connecticut historically and critically, and . . . to trace the economic effects of the different laws"—has been admirably carried out. In scope the work covers factory legislation (including child labor), the employment contract, employers' liability, boycotting and blacklisting, free public employment bureaus, mediation and arbitration, the union label, the barbers' license law, and convict labor, with a separate chapter on the State Bureau of Labor Statistics. This bureau, though charged with an occasional wrong attitude on labor questions and with an inefficiency due to lack of sufficient legal powers, is credited with more or less accurate investigations and with aiding in the passage of important legislation. The State Board of Mediation and Arbitration is regarded as a failure, "due largely to a lack of confidence in the board."

Dr. Edwards frankly confesses that the greater part of the statistics he has been able to gather are incomplete and inaccurate:—which, it may be observed, is equally the case in other American Commonwealths. Connecticut is among the backward states in the failure to prohibit the employment of women and young persons at night or in dangerous occupations. But Connecticut is unique in the close and natural relation established between the child labor and the compulsory education laws, the enforcement of both of which is properly placed in the hands of the State Bureau of Education. Organized labor, while not always pursuing "a broad-minded policy," has been "the chief factor in securing labor legislation" since 1885. Employers have usually exhibited a commendable willingness to comply with the law, though they have not hesitated to defeat some excellent measures or to weaken them before they became law. Dr. Edwards is to be congratulated on having made a valuable contribution to the literature of social legislation, in a field in which the harvest is ripe and the laborers all too few.

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Fessenden, Francis. *Life and Public Services of William Pitt Fessenden.*

Two vols. Pp. xiv, 741. Price, \$5.00. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1907.

William Pitt Fessenden was a great senator and deserved a proper biography, but it cannot be said that the volumes by his son fulfil the need. Some day the work must be done over again. In the preface the editor states that the work was begun years ago by General Francis Fessenden, who spent ten years in gathering material. When he wrote out the life it was too long and had to be abridged. Perhaps this fact accounts for some of the defects in the work, for the spirit was condensed out of it. The two volumes

are devoted mainly to an account of Fessenden's service in the Senate from 1854 to 1868, with very slight reference to what went on outside the Senate, whether in Fessenden's life or in the country generally. The author shows slight acquaintance with the historical literature of his period, although he sometimes attempts to give a general history of certain periods or questions. Even in dealing with Senator Fessenden, too much reliance is placed upon public speeches and debates. There is entirely too much undigested material from the "Congressional Globe" in the work—about 150 pages of lengthy quotations besides shorter ones and summaries of debates. The Report of the Joint Committee on Reconstruction is reprinted, as well as several senatorial opinions on the impeachment trial. Such matter is elsewhere accessible to most people who will read a life of Fessenden. In discussing financial matters little is done to show exactly what Fessenden did, why he did it, and why he was regarded as a master of public finance. The historical part of the work appears to be drawn directly out of the speeches of the time. Naturally men's views were then narrow and often superficial, and their language bitter, but that is no excuse for similar views or language fifty years later.

But the Life does add something to the sum of human knowledge. The author gives us a few new points about the impeachment trial and other important events, and his rigorous exclusion of nearly all that would tend to prove Fessenden a human being did not prevent the printing of some very interesting letters. How one wishes for more of them after reading forty pages of the "Globe"! Fessenden could make a letter readable. Take a few extracts from them: in regard to Tyler he said, "I wish the devil had him at the end of a pitchfork . . . a poor animal who was never worth the snuff of a candle, or a cheese-paring, or a quid of tobacco;" of Mrs. Madison he said that she "is as upright as a pillar of salt and in about as good preservation;" of the President who was acquitted by his vote he wrote "Andy is a fool."

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Fisk, G. M. *International and Commercial Policies*. Pp. xv, 288. Price, \$1.25. New York: Macmillan Company, 1907.

Dr. Fisk has given to teachers of commerce a book of great value for elementary work. The volume is primarily a text book, containing simple direct statements of facts rather than a discussion of policies. Starting with a general discussion of the meaning of commerce, especially in ancient and middle ages, the author proceeds to the development of modern commercial policies, discussing at length the Mercantile System, Free Trade and Protection. He next discusses the broad subject of Customs, dealing with its several topics, such as import and export duties, tariff and tariff systems and the technique of customs, such as *ad valorem*, specific and differential duties. Another section of the book is devoted to discussing commercial treaties, their nature, form and contents and the subject of reciprocity.